
 National Transportation Safety Board PRELIMINARY REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: DCA12MA020		Most Critical Injury: Fatal	
		Occurrence Date: 12/07/2011		Investigated By: NTSB	
		Occurrence Type: Accident			
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place Las Vegas		State NV	Zip Code	Local Time 1630	Time Zone PST
Aircraft Information					
Registration Number N37SH		Aircraft Manufacturer EUROCOPTER FRANCE		Model/Series Number AS350B2	
Type of Aircraft: Helicopter			Amateur Built Aircraft? No		
Injury Summary:		Fatal 5	Serious	Minor	None
Revenue Sightseeing Flight: Yes			Air Medical Transport Flight: No		
Narrative					
<p>Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:</p> <p>*** Note: NTSB investigators traveled in support of this investigation and used data obtained from various sources to prepare this aircraft accident report. ***</p> <p>On December 7, 2011 at 1630 Pacific Standard Time, a Eurocopter AS350-B2, registration N37SH, operated by Sundance Helicopters as flight Landmark 57, crashed in mountainous terrain approximately 14 miles east of Las Vegas, Nevada. The 14 CFR Part 135 flight was a tourist sightseeing flight, which departed from Las Vegas McCarran International Airport (LAS), Las Vegas, NV, intending to fly to the Hoover Dam area and return to LAS, operating under visual flight rules. The helicopter impacted in a narrow ravine in mountainous terrain between the city of Henderson and Lake Mead. The pilot and four passengers were fatally injured, and the helicopter was substantially damaged by impact forces and post-crash fire. Weather was reported as clear with good visibility and dusk light conditions.</p> <p>Radar data obtained from the FAA show that the helicopter departed LAS and followed a normal route of flight easterly out of the LAS airport traffic area, then turned to the southeast toward Hoover Dam. Tour routings are standardized for all the area tour operators. The helicopter was level at 3,500 feet mean sea level (MSL) at approximately 120 knots. About one minute prior to the accident, the radar indicated the helicopter climbed to 4,100 feet MSL and turned about 90 degrees to the left. The left turn and climb are not part of the normal route. Radar then indicated the helicopter descended to 3,300 feet MSL and tracked a northeasterly course for about 20 seconds, until entering a left turn then a descent. The last radar target received was about 1/8 miles from the accident site.</p> <p>Updated on Dec 12 2011 5:30PM</p>					
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Other Aircraft Involved					
Registration Number		Aircraft Manufacturer		Model/Series Number	
Accident Information					
Aircraft Damage: Substantial			Accident Occurred During:		
Crew	Name	Certificate No.	Injury		
Pilot					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
Operator Information					
Name SUNDANCE HELICOPTERS INC		Operator Designator Code		Doing Business As	
Street Address		City		State	Zip Code
-Type of Certificate(s) Held:					
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s): On-demand Air Taxi					
Operating Certificate:			Operator Certificate:		
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter					
Type of Flight Operations Conducted: Non-scheduled; Domestic; Passenger Only					
Flight Plan/Itinerary					
Type of Flight Plan Filed: Company VFR					
Last Departure Point		State	Airport Identifier		
Same as Accident/Incident Location			LAS		
Destination		State	Airport Identifier		
Local Flight		NV	LAS		
Weather Information					
Investigator's Source: Unknown		Facility ID: KLAS		Observation Time (Local): 1556	
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Clear			Ft. AGL		
Lowest Ceiling:		Ft. AGL	Visibility: 10	SM	Altimeter: 30.14 "Hg
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AVIATION

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Weather Information

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Temperature:

12 °C

Dew Point:

-12 °C

Wind Direction: 200

Wind Speed: 4

Kts.

Gusts:

Kts.

Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions

Administration Data

Notification From

Media

Date

FAA District Office/Coordinator

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

William R. English